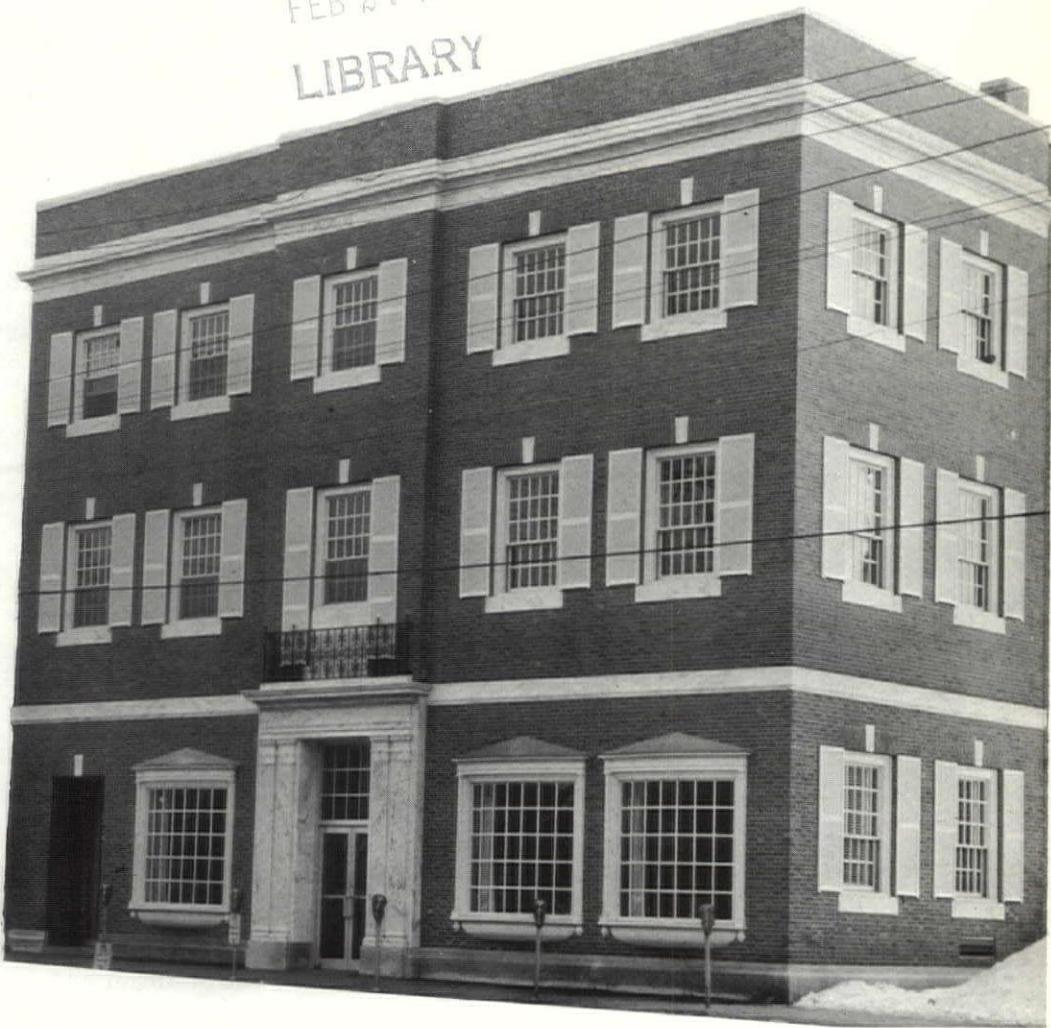


# New Hampshire ARCHITECT

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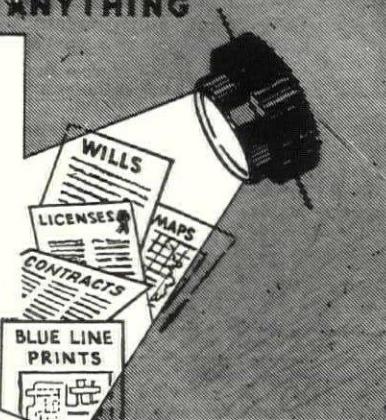
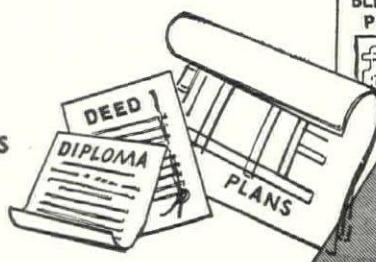
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## *The President's Message*

The average home owner contemplates with consternation the furnishings of a home. It is no small task to select the many articles of furniture, especially for one untrained in the subject, and usually requires no end of study and consultation with recognized authorities. Nevertheless, a few simple rules on the subject will help anyone undertaking the delightful task of furnishing a home.

The ABC of furniture selection may well be expressed in three words — Appropriateness, Beauty and Comfort. If each piece of furniture chosen for the home is selected with these three attributes in mind, the result should be entirely pleasing.

The effect of very attractive and worthy furniture may be destroyed by its lack of appropriateness for the setting in which it is used. The association of a sturdy Mission chair and a graceful Adam table, for instance, can result only in a lack of harmony and a comparison obviously to the disadvantage of both pieces. This does not mean that all of the furniture entering into one room should be en suite or even of similar design. Such a selection produces an uninteresting and characterless effect. For real individuality there should be a selection of varied designs with a care to their harmony when associated together in the same room.

Such selection should also take into consideration the architectural features of the room, the design and color of the rugs, draperies, pictures and various accessories which enter into the ensemble.

To carry the matter to its logical conclusion, furniture to be appropriate should suit the personality of the owner.

Several years ago a newly-made millionaire purchased for his four-year-old daughter a bed room suite of heavy design in Circassian walnut with profuse metal trimmings. It is not difficult to understand that the child's surroundings in her own room did not contribute favorably to her attitude of mind.

It is sometimes difficult to analyze the beauty of a piece of furniture. Frequently, beauty is such a fine adjustment of many elements entering into the design and construction that it seems to be an abstract and elusive thing. However, it is always possible to consider several broad requirements of beautiful furniture which are a safe guide for the home furnisher.

Perhaps of greatest importance is the matter of proportion. It has been said that "proportion is the good breeding of architecture." It is equally true of furniture. Much depends solely on its proportion for its attractiveness.



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# New Hampshire ARCHITECT

VOL. 9

FEBRUARY, 1958

NO. 7

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## COVER PICTURE

Remodeled Laconia National Bank Building,  
Laconia, N. H.

New Hampshire Architect is published monthly,  
under the direction of the president and board of  
directors of the New Hampshire Chapter,  
American Institute of Architects, to promote the  
objectives and public relations of the chapter.  
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# 1957 SETS ALL-TIME RECORD

NEW YORK—Construction contracts in 1957 totalled \$32,173,412,000, two per cent ahead of the 1956 total, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation.

While strictly comparable figures are not available for years before 1956, a Dodge official said that 1957 "undoubtedly set a new all-time record."

The 1957 figure was the first annual construction contract total ever released for the United States, since the Dodge statistics prior to 1957 covered only the 37 states east of the Rockies. Back data on the 48-state basis were compiled for 1956, in order to make possible comparisons with 1957.

December contracts, Dodge reported, totalled \$1,982,342,000, a decrease of four percent below December of 1956. An increase in contracts for residential buildings was more than offset by declines in non-residential and heavy engineering contracts.

According to Dodge vice president and economist George Cline Smith, "the 1957 total undoubtedly set a new all-time record for dollar volume of construction contracts. While statistics do not exist which would absolutely prove this to be a fact, we do know that 1957 exceeded 1956, on a 48-state basis, and we can judge from the earlier 37-state contract figures that 1956 far exceeded any earlier year."

In December, residential building contracts totalled \$758,580,000, an increase of nine percent over December, 1956. Non-residential building contracts amounted to \$698,912,000, a decline of eight percent

from the previous December, and heavy engineering contracts, at \$524,850,000, were down 13 percent.

For the year as a whole, residential building contracts amounted to \$13,039,005,000, one percent ahead of 1956; non-residential building, at \$11,293,149,000, was up one percent; and heavy engineering at \$7,841,258,000, was up four percent.

## CONTRACTOR FOLLOWS PLANS

When plans were drawn up for the new elementary school in Galesburg, Ill., someone jotted down the notation "sidewalk in red." The note was intended to point out the location of the sidewalks on the plans. But the contractor figured the note meant exactly what it said. Result—the school opened this fall completely surrounded by red sidewalks.

## CHANCE FOR A TOUR OF U. S.

Australian architect, Emmil Browne, age 27, intends making an architectural and geographical tour of the United States by car leaving New York in March and returning to New York in June. Mr. Browne would like to take an architect or architect interested in such a trip a willing to assist with driving. Further information may be received by writing Mr. Browne at 1395 Lexington Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.

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## MASONRY MOVES AHEAD

Business of far reaching importance was transmitted at the last meeting of New England Concrete Masonry Association at Springfield, Mass. Present at the meeting along with regular members was Phil Paoletta, President of NECMA. The first item of significance was the increasing of the annual dues, substantially in excess of what was previously paid. This makes it possible to accelerate the promotion program considerably. As tangible evidence of this the association is mailing out some seven thousand brochures on concrete Masonry to the construction fraternity in New England. The brochure will cost around \$7,000.

Another feature of the meeting was the decision to organize working committees for the accomplishment of industry objectives. This will make the group activities more effective.

It was also suggested that organizations from other areas be encouraged to attend the meetings.

Most significant, however, was the fact that with the increased dues a new cooperative venture with the Structural Clay Products Institute was inaugurated. NECMA agreed to help share the financial burden of carrying on the apprenticeship training program here in New England. In addition the services of Tom Crane, happy representative from Watertown, Mass. will be available for the improvement of all types of masonry in this area. Since Tom carries a card, and has done so for some forty years, it is expected that the concrete masonry industry will be able to work more effectively than ever before with union groups. Tom expects to put numerous work demonstration meetings and to devote considerable time to foreman training.

The brick industry has held out the olive branch. The block industry was smart enough to accept it gracefully. The result is that masonry has taken a seven league stride forward.

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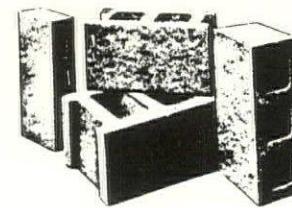
California Stucco Products of New England, Incorporated, has recently announced the purchase of the Vermiculite manufacturing facilities of Munn & Steele, Inc., Hingham, Mass. With this new property at Hingham Shipyard Industrial Center and its Cambridge plant production, California Stucco becomes the largest producer in New England of expanded Vermiculite, an inorganic mica material widely used in the Building Industry.

William O. Spain, formerly with U. S. Gypsum Company and later with Munn & Steele, Inc., joins California Stucco as Vice-President in charge of the Micafil Vermiculite Division. This step is in keeping with immediate company plans to further expand sales and distribution of Vermiculite products to the building industry and home-owners.

Vermiculite is widely used as a light-weight aggregate in plaster and concrete to greatly reduce the dead load of sand and stone which were previously used in building construction. It also has remarkable properties as loose-fill insulation providing low initial cost and ease of installation.

California Stucco Products of New England is located at 169 Waverly Street, Cambridge, Mass., and has been a pioneer manufacturer of building materials, producing paints and masonry products in addition to Vermiculite.

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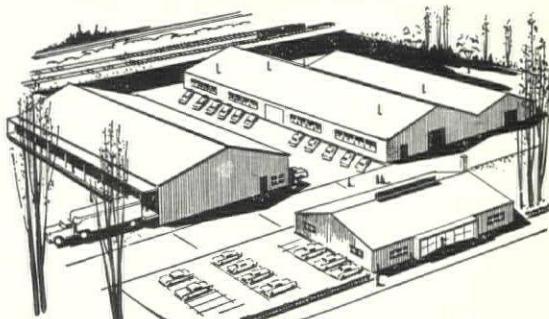
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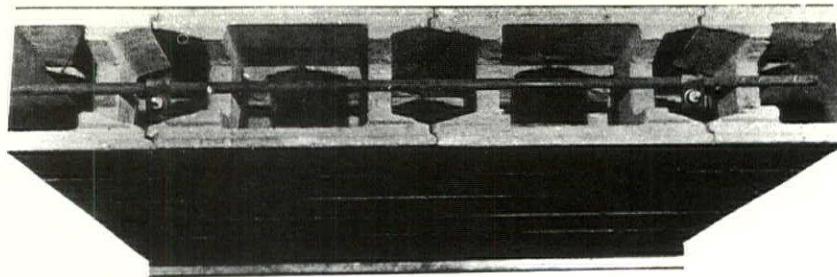
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# FORMBLOC MASONRY CONSTRUCTION

by Arnold Perreton, A. I. A.

Ever since Formbloc was developed and introduced in the building field, where it has met with increasing use and success, numerous architects, engineers, contractors, and others interested in building have asked me, "What is Formbloc construction?" "How is it better than other types of masonry construction?" and "Where can it be used to best advantage?" In order to answer these questions the following material is presented.

## WHAT IS FORMBLOC CONSTRUCTION?

Formbloc masonry construction consists of modular-sized, hollow concrete blocks, of special design, called Formbloc, which when laid up in a wall or other structural form and stabilized with vertical and horizontal reinforcing rods, serve as the form into which a concrete filler is poured to produce, after setting, a re-

inforced, monolithic masonry wall in which the Formbloc units and the concrete core becomes an integral part of the wall.

The Formbloc units, 8" x 16", complete with corner, jamb, and half units, are available for 8" and 12"-thick walls. Because of their interlocking and self-aligning features, they can be laid without mortar (or dry), or if preferred, they can be laid with a thin, horizontal mortar joint; but no vertical mortar joints are needed or recommended. All units are made of 2500 psi concrete, to test 1000 psi gross area or more.

The stabilizing steel consists of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 12" anchor bolts,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " horizontal reinforcing rods, and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " modular length vertical tie rods, hooked at one end and threaded at the other end, complete with clips and nuts. To stabilize the dry Formbloc wall under normal conditions, the first course is anchored to the footing by having a continuous horizontal rod inserted in the

trough of the blocks, and secured to the bolts which are imbedded in the footing and penetrate up through the voids in the block. Then other courses of blocks are laid up to 12 courses or less, a continuous horizontal rod is inserted in the trough of the top course of blocks, and the vertical tie rods are dropped down through the voids of the blocks, hooked on to the lower horizontal rod, and tightened until the vertical tie rod is in tension. The bolts and verticle tie rods are spaced 16" from corner of wall and about 6' on center, along the length of the wall. Additional horizontal and vertical reinforcing rods can be inserted in the voids of the Formbloc wall, on 8" modules or more, in either direction, as may be required for special conditions. A Formbloc wall laid with horizontal mortar joints need not be stabilized with steel rods, but reinforcing rods may be inserted as needed.

The concrete filler for the Formbloc wall can be insulating or structural concrete, or both. As illustrated, the large voids in the vertical and horizontal direction of the Formbloc wall, permit an easy flow of concrete in all directions when the

wall is poured. However, it can be poured somewhat "soupy," since the excess moisture, aborbed by the blocks, makes a better bond between the blocks and the concrete. The soupy concrete also speeds the pouring through the voids of the wall and helps to fill the joints from the inside.

The concrete mix should be as follows:

FOR INSULATED, LIGHT-BEARING AND CURTAIN WALLS, with wall loads up to 75 psi, a vermiculite concrete filler is uesd in proportion of 1 part cement and 8 parts vermiculite concrete aggregate, to provide a heat transmission, or U factor, of .12.

FOR INSULATED, MEDIUM-BEARING WALLS, with wall loads from 75 psi to 100 psi, the concrete filler used is 1 part cement, 1 part sand, and 4 parts vermiculite concrete aggregate, to provide a U factor of .145.

FOR STRUCTURAL, HEAVY-BEARING WALLS, a concrete filler of 1000, 2000, or 3000 psi gravel concrete is used for wall loads from 100 psi to 400 psi or more, to provide a U factor of .70.

(Continued on page 12)



Motel on Lake Winnepeaukee at Sanders Bay — under Construction — showing use of insulated Formbloc masonry walls laid up dry to two stories in central section and one story in two 75' wings.

(Continued from Page 11)

The heat transmission, or U factor, for the .145 Formbloc wall construction, without plaster, and with cores filled with insulating concrete, is computed as follows:

COEFFICIENT OF TRANSMISSION (U) OF FORMBLOC WALL CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT PLASTER AND WITH CORES FILLED WITH INSULATING CONCRETE

$$U = \frac{1}{\frac{f_i}{K_1} + \frac{X_1}{K_2} + \frac{X_2}{K_3} + \frac{f_o}{K_4}}$$

$f_i = .61$  - Inside Surface Coefficient

$X_1 = 1.11$  Resistance of 8 inch concrete block - 3 core - has resistance of 1.11 - therefore, Formbloc is equal or greater inside air space. This can be noted by comparing the resistance of 3 core 8 inch block vs. 12 inch block.

$X_2 = 5$  Formbloc core space is 5-3/4 inches wide. Since the two end webs consume 10% of the total core space, we can assume that the actual average core space is 5 inches.

$K_a = 1$  K factor of Zonolite Vermiculite Sand Concrete 1-1-4 mix.  
1 part cement  
1 part sand  
4 part Zonolite Vermiculite Concrete Aggregate

$\frac{1}{f_o} = .17$  Outside Surface Coefficient

$$\therefore U = \frac{1}{.61 + 1.11 + 5 + .17} = \frac{1}{6.89}$$

$U = .145$   
Overall coefficient of heat transmission through 8 inch Formbloc Unit without Plaster.

Similarly, the overall coefficient of heat transmission through the 12" Formbloc wall unit filled with vermiculite and sand concrete, consisting of 1 part cement, 1 part sand, and 4 parts vermiculite concrete aggregate, is .09. This U factor can be increased or decreased further by the 8" and 12" Formbloc walls, as may be needed.

Since the Formbloc units are made of 2500 psi heavy-weight or gravel concrete to test 1000 psi gross area or more, the use of these Formbloc units in conjunction with a concrete filler and reinforced rods, as may be required, provides the necessary durability for exterior and interior finish and the insulation or strength for all types of structural forms to serve modern building needs.

(To Be Continued in March Issue)



We should so live and labor in our time that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and that what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. This is what we mean by progress.

—HENRY WARD BEECHER

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# REMODELING LACONIA NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

## Laconia, N. H.

ARCHITECT: NORMAN P. RANDLETT  
Laconia, N. H.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: W. M. BISSON & SON  
LACONIA, N. H.

As originally built the front of the Laconia National Bank Building was pressed brick with brownstone trim.

Land having become available for enlarging the building, the first floor of which is occupied jointly by the National Bank and the City Savings Bank, the directors of the former authorized remodeling the street elevation in connection with the other new construction.

This was accomplished by veneering the existing structure with water struck brick and marble trim above a granite base course. To incorporate the additional first floor space two sections of the exterior wall were removed and steel supports were placed under the walls above.

The windows, which are wood, were placed in the former openings occupied by the original windows, the new openings being arranged symmetrically in respect to the ones in the existing structure.

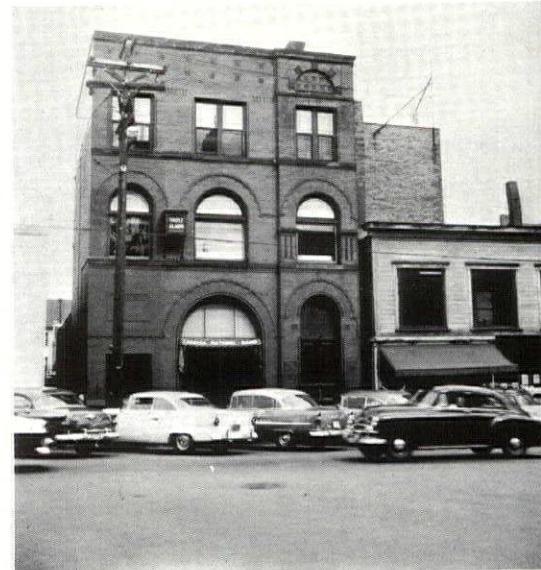
The entrance doors to the bank and to the offices above are aluminum.

Formerly there were steps outside the bank entrance but these were removed and placed inside the vestibule.

Existing mahogany interior trim and acoustical ceilings were extended into the new banking area.

Rooms in the upper stories are for the use of tenants. A new stairway leads to the basement where a lounge for bank employees was constructed.

The heating system was changed to include zoning and two new boilers were installed.



BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

## LACONIA NATIONAL BANK

### Sub-Contractors and Material Suppliers

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Roofing and Sheet Metal Work—A. W. Therriee  
Co., Inc., Manchester.

Glazing—United Plate Glass Co., Manchester  
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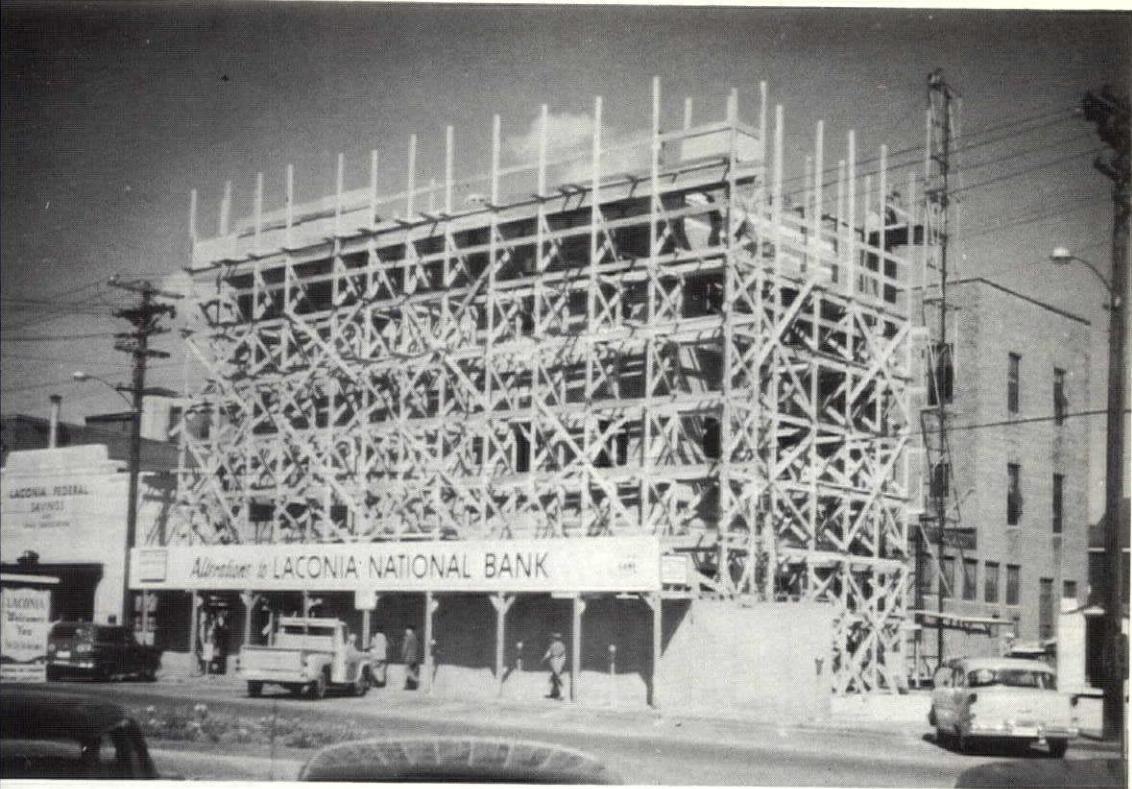
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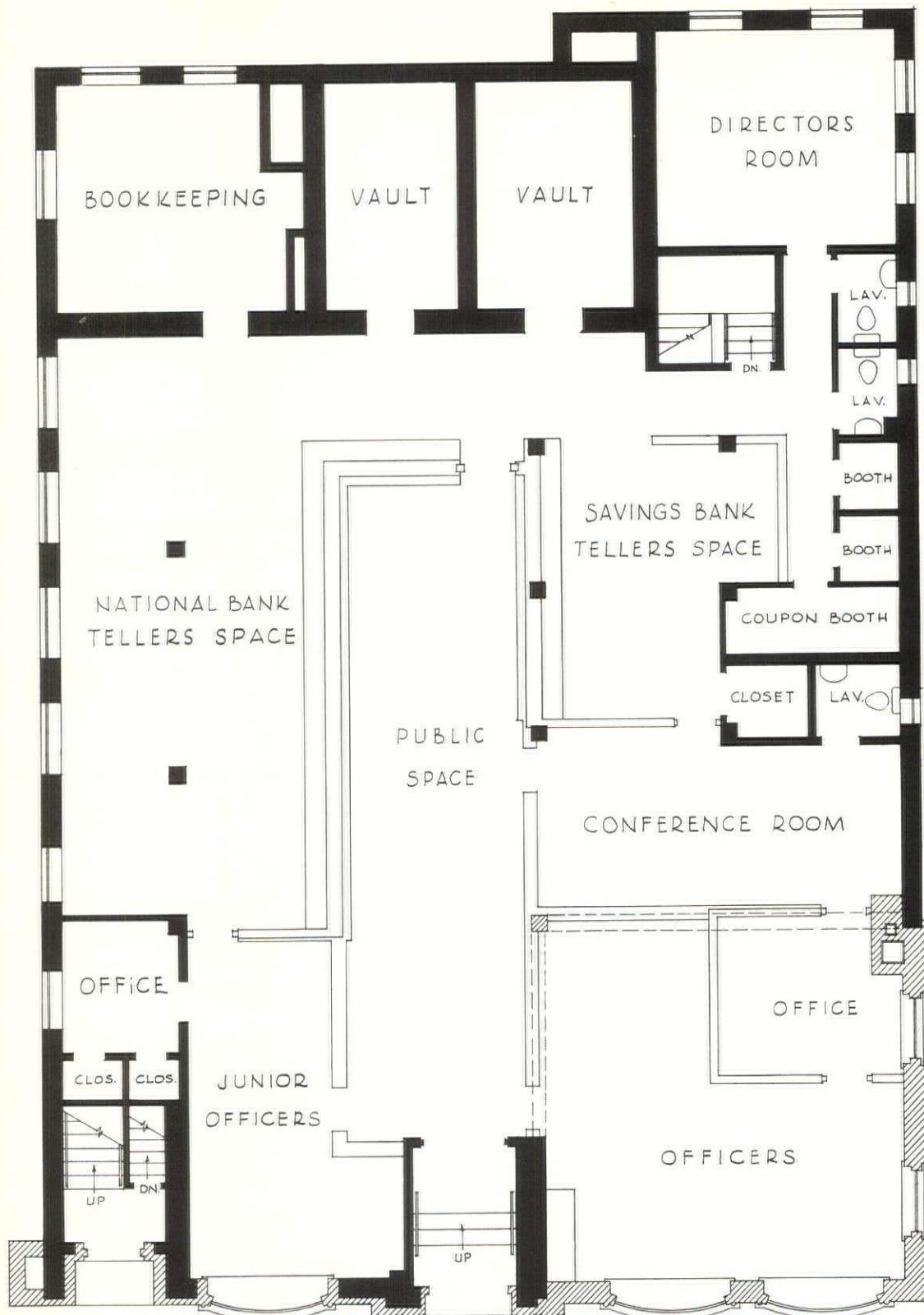
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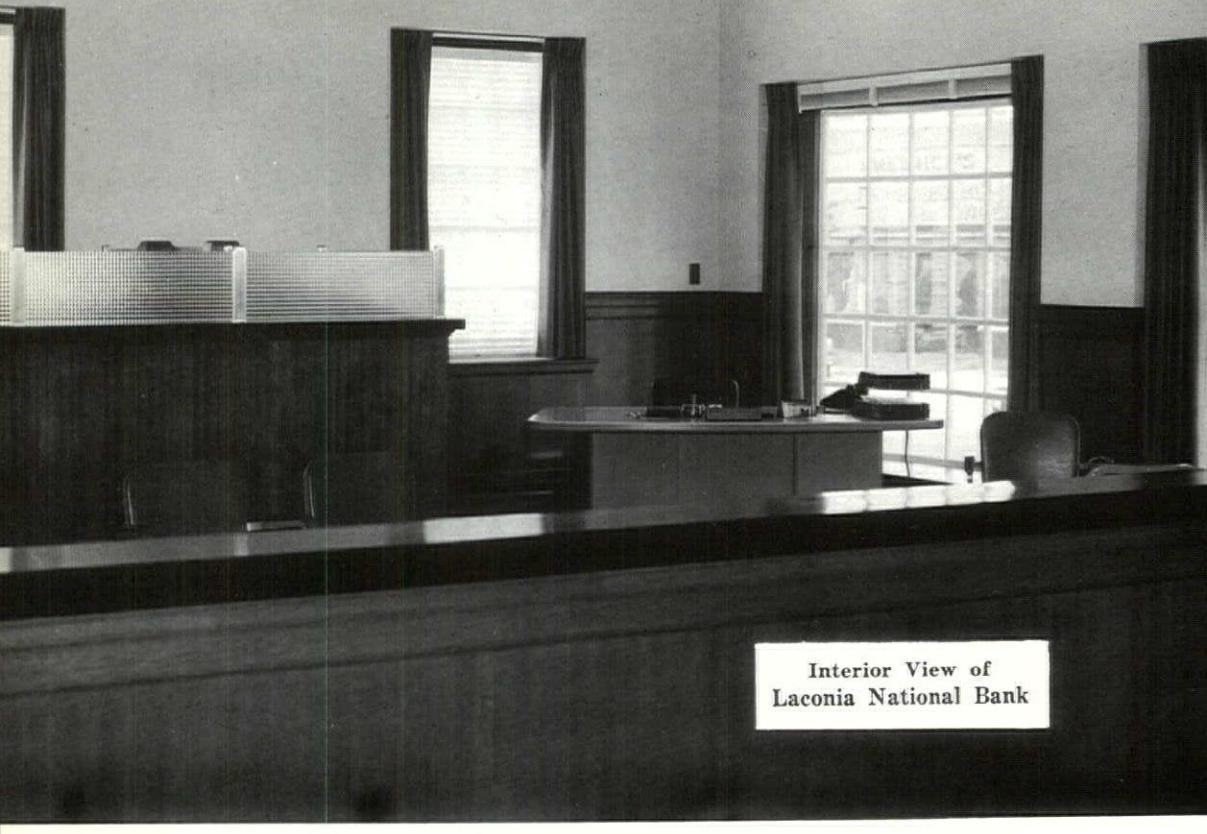
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Interior View of  
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For

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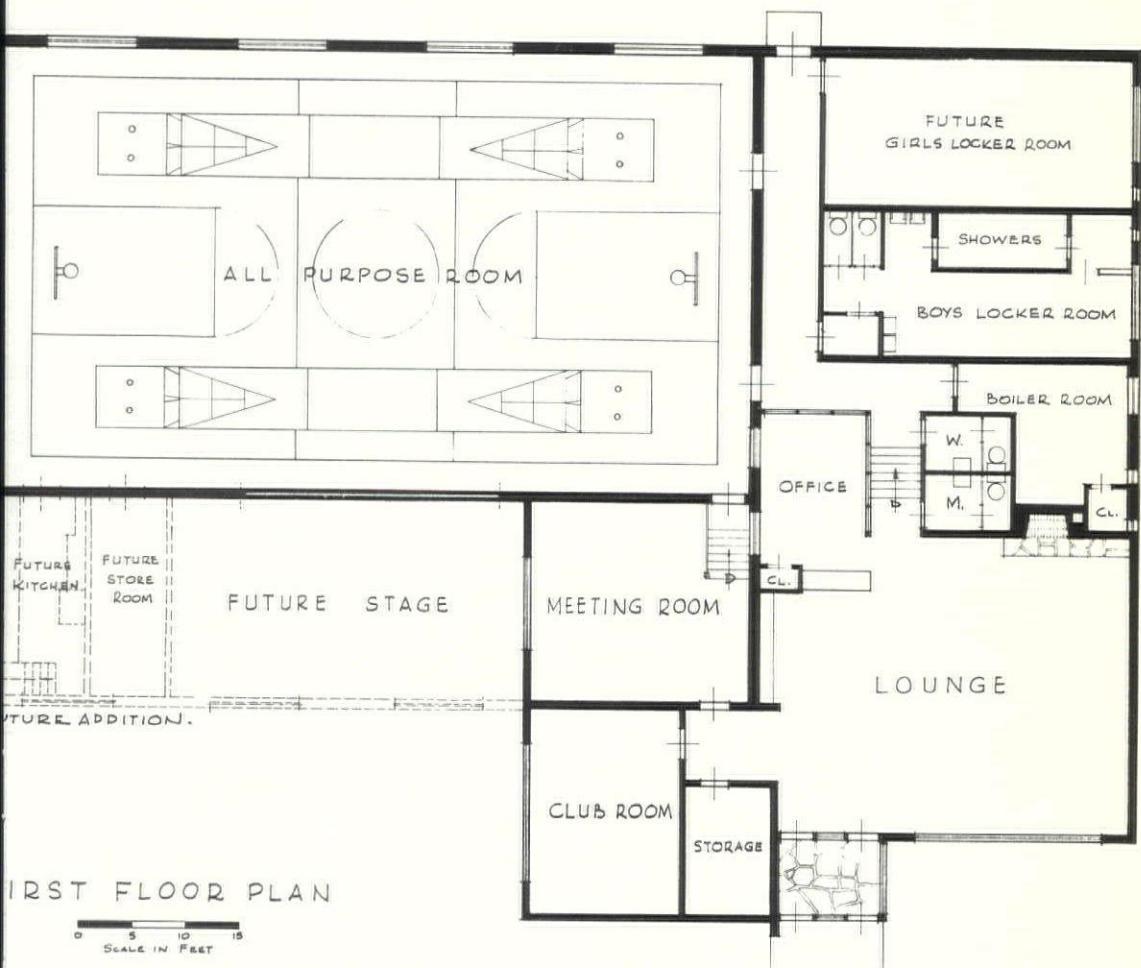


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ARCHITECT: NORMAN P. RANDLETT

Laconia, N. H.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: W. M. BISSON & SON

LACONIA, N. H.

The Clarence E. Rowe Memorial Y. M. C. A. Building in Laconia, serves as a center of many of the activities of the boys and girls of the community, as well as those of adults.

Because of the contours of the lot the structure is built on two levels. At street level are the lounge, two rooms for group meetings, and an office and a storage room. On the lower level are the gymnasium, boys and girls locker and shower rooms, public toilets, and the heater room. As only one attendant will be on duty at any one time the office is so placed that the person in charge may observe all the rooms in the building or the entrances to them.

Exterior walls are cinder concrete block except for one section which is wood. This will be removed later when an addition to include a stage is constructed.

The corridor to the locker rooms will open later into a swimming pool to be built in the future at the rear of the building.

The roof is steel joists covered with precast slab, and tar and gravel roofing. There is an acoustical tile ceiling in the lobby. Elsewhere the bar joists and the roof deck are exposed.

In the gymnasium there has been installed a wide variety of apparatus. The basket ball court was designed for junior

(Continued on Page 22)

# W. M. Bisson & Son



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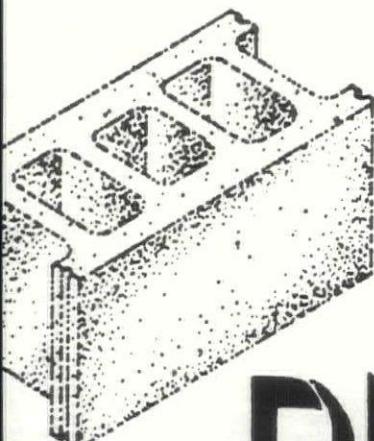
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(Continued from Page 20)

high school students, as well as for older people not caring for the strenuous game played on large courts. The two shuffleboard courts are popular with many members. The program of activities was pre-

pared and is supervised by Reid C. Besserer, the general secretary, assisted by qualified part time workers.

The construction cost of the building was \$75,696.



## LACONIA Y. M. C. A.

### Sub-Contractors and Material Suppliers

Plumbing and Heating—Francoeur-Gill Co., Inc., Laconia.

Blocks—Duracrete Block Co., Inc., Manchester  
Roofing and Sheet Metal Work—A. W. Therrien Co., Inc., Manchester.

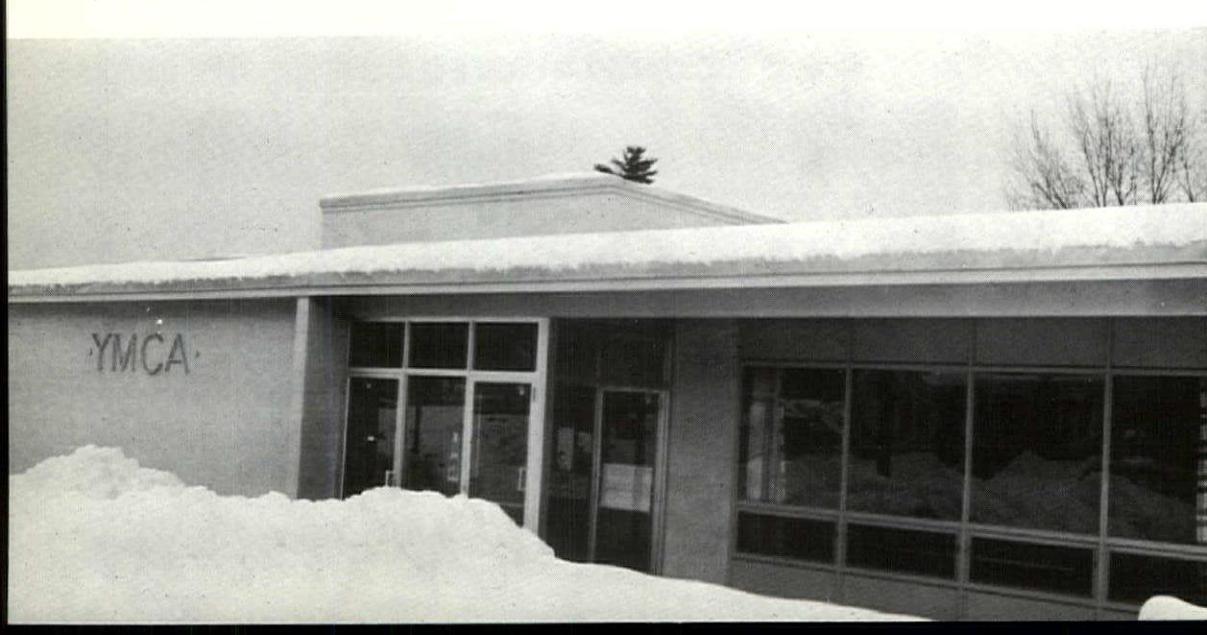
Painting—MacArthur & Sons, Penacook.

Glazing—Adams Glass Co., Concord.  
Asphalt Tile—M. J. Murphy & Sons, Inc., Dover.

Hollow Metal Doors and Frames, Steel  
Windows, Toilet Partitions—Maurice Lafrance, Manchester.

Steel—Lyons Iron Works, Inc., Manchester.  
Insulrock Roof Deck—Pitcher & Co., Cambridge, Mass.

Redi-Mix Concrete—Wescott Concrete Co., Lakeport.



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Gray and Ingram, Hanover	Leo P. Provost, Manchester
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Joseph F. Lampron, Secretary of New Hampshire Chapter, A.I.A., announces the election of the following Chapter Committees for 1957-1958:

#### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Chapter Affairs, Membership, Centennial Observance, Education, Office Practice, Awards and Scholarship:

Norman P. Randlett, Chairman, Eugene Magenau, Maurice E. Witmer, Eric T. Middleston, Edgar H. Hunter, Charles H. Ray.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations, Government Relations, H. Architect, Home Building and Construction Industries, Collaboration with Design Professions:

Richard Koehler, Chairman, Alexander Majeski, Shepard Vogelgesang, Alexander R. James, Carl E. Peterson.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Preservation of Historic Buildings, Research, School Buildings, Hospitals and Health.

Arnold Perreton, Chairman, Horace G. Adt, Alfred T. Granger, Leo P. Provost, Stephen P. Tracy.

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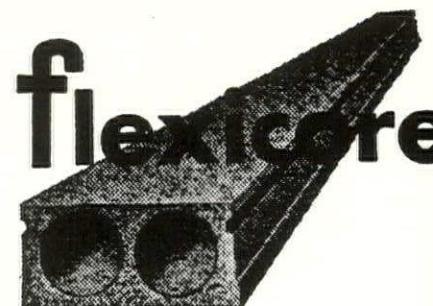
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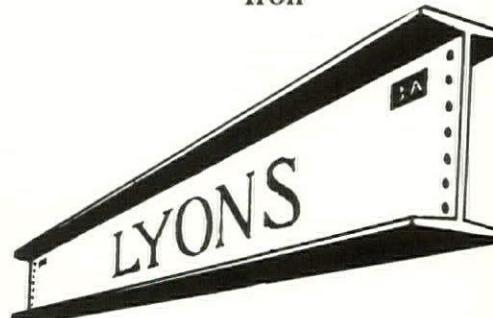
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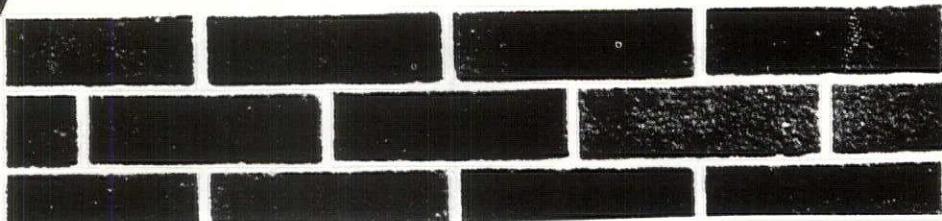
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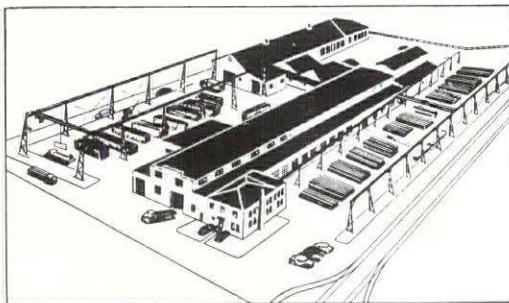
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